



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Denver Service Center

12795 W. Alameda Pkwy.
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

303-969-2825 phone
303-987-6658 fax

Denver Service Center

News Release

Contact: Samantha Richardson

Phone number: 303.969.2825

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New Water Treatment Plant Receives Engineering Excellence Award

The American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) of Colorado recognized the Lake Mead New Membrane Water Treatment Plant with its Engineering Excellence Award for top water/wastewater project. This facility is located at the Lake Mead National Recreation Area at Katherine Landing, Arizona. The National Park Service's Denver Service Center managed this project, and Richard P. Arber Associates, a consulting engineering firm based in Denver, provided the final design for the plant. The water treatment plant will now move on to the ACEC's national award competition.

This plant is one of the first in the United States to use a dual membrane system to purify drinking water. The combination of microfiltration and nanofiltration removes suspended solids and also allows for the passage of desired minerals with a high rejection of organic compounds. This project is the last of four membrane water treatment plants constructed at Lake Mead and the largest, producing 360,000 gallons of drinking water daily.

The selection of the water treatment method was accomplished by the National Park Service through a value engineering analysis. The Denver Service Center performed a preliminary design covering all four plants. The Denver Service Center also performed final design for the first three plants, located at Overton Beach, Echo Bay, and Callville Bay, and provided project management oversight and coordination for all phases of the work.

ACEC has 240 member firms, and holds its annual competition, now in its 36th year, to recognize exceptional consulting engineering achievement submitted by its member firms. The ACEC awards program recognizes engineering achievements that exhibit ingenuity, significant technical advancements, economic contribution, and social improvements.

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